

Message Text

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44

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NP

SUBJ: HMG CABINET CHANGES

1. SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WERE ANNOUNCED SEPT. 2 BY THE ROYAL PALACE. AT THE FULL MINISTER LEVEL, JOG MEHER SHRESTHA, WHO HAD HELD THE COMMUNICATIONS & LAW & JUSTICE PORTFOLIOS, WAS DROPPED AND REPLACED BY RABINDRA NATH SHARMA; AND PITAMBAR DHOJ KHATI HAS BEEN MADE MINISTER OF HEALTH. AT THE ASSISTANT MINISTER LEVEL, LABAUR RANA THARU WAS SWITCHED FROM LAND REFORM TO A NEW POSITION OF ASSISTANT MINNISTER FOR WORKS AND TRANSPORT; SAMSUL HUQ FILLS THE NEW POSITION OF ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR WATER & POWER; DAMBAR BAHADUR MALLA THE NEW POSITION OF ASSITANT MINISTER FOR FOOD, AGRICULTUR & IRRIGATION; & DILLISHER RAI THE NEW POSITION OF ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HOME & PANCHAYAT. MARICHMAN SINGH ASSUMES THE POST OF ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR LAND REFORM, WHILE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR GENERAL ADMINISTRATION MAN BAHADUR JAWEGU WAS DROPPED FROM CABINET, APPARENTLY ALONG WITH THE POSITION ITSELF. THERE WERE NO CHANGES AT THE MINISTER OF STATE LEVEL. OF THE SIX NEW FACES, SHARMA, KHATI, & RAI HAVE SERVED IN PREVIOUS CABINETS.

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2. ON THE SURFACE, THESE CHANGES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MORE OR-

GANIZATIONAL THAN POLITICAL IN INTENT, AS ONLY TWO INDIVIDUALS, SHRESTHA & JAWEGU, WERE ACTUALLY DROPPED FROM THE CABINET, WHILE THE REST OF THE CHANGES INVOLVE THE CREATION OF NEW POSITIONS. FROM A DEMOGRAPHIC POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHRESTHA THERE ARE NO NEWARS IN THE CABINET FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1951; AND THAT THE REPRESENTATION OF THE HILL TRIBES IS STRENGTHENED, THREE OF THE FOUR NEW ASSISTANT MINISTERS BEING FROM SUCH TRIBES, WHILE THE FOURTH, SAMSUL HUQ, IS THE FIRST MUSLIM TO SERVE IN A CABINET SINCE THE RISE OF THE SHAH DYNASTY. MAYTAG

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